

## Executive Director Update | September 2023

*Welcome back to school, everyone!*

I am hearing that managing the new Free School Meals for All legislation is going well in practice, albeit with a few challenges along the way. There's a tremendous increase in the number of students you are all serving. After three weeks, it seems students and staff are getting into the groove of the school year and this program. Congratulations to all of you for your success in serving students throughout Minnesota.

As others have in this newsletter, I reflect on the success of the 66<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference last month. We had more sessions, more exhibitors, and more presenters in attendance! We listened to your suggestions from the 2022 annual conference and made some changes to the schedule, the food and beverage, and the topics.

Here is a quote from one of our survey-respondents that says it best:

*This was one of the best MSNA annual conferences that I've attended. The variety of sessions were great. The growth and maturity in all who attended. The main speakers were so down to earth and personal, I was so inspired and I walked away a different person. The food including GF options were delicious.*

My thanks to Chair Julie Kronabetter, Burnsville-Eagan-Savage Schools, and Co-chair Ashley Schneider, Moorhead Public Schools, for their leadership, vision, and creativity in planning the conference. To ALL the committee members, thank you for your time planning and on-site to ensure attendees had a meaningful and wonderful experience at the conference.

According to the MSNA bylaws, a House of Delegates meeting is held every two years. This was the year to do so. Our thanks to the bylaws committee for their review of the former bylaws and suggestions for updates. The bylaws are an important instrument for the MSNA Board of Directors to govern itself and the organization. Thank you to the delegates who participated in the House of Delegates meeting. All suggested bylaw changes were passed. These are posted on the [MSNA website](#).

While the final months of the year tend to be quieter for MSNA, there is still much to be accomplished. In October, the board of directors will take a few days in retreat to discuss the third year of the [strategic plan](#) and start to lay the ground work for the new plan that will go into effect in 2025. On the agenda is membership; how to grow our membership, what and how to provide our members with as much value as possible; the fiscal health of the organization; and a decision in whether chapters in their current format provide members what they need. If you have ideas or questions, please reach out to the board members. We want to hear from you, the members.

Of course, the SNIP conference is in November at Breezy Point. Check out the MSNA [website](#) for the schedule outline. The SNIP conference committee is a lively, creative group that have designed a wonderful program for all.

Lastly, I want to express my gratitude and thanks to Cheryl Pick, Foley Public Schools, for her leadership as president this past year. Cheryl has a deep commitment to MSNA, its members, the board, her staff, and the children she serves. I learned a great deal from Cheryl this year and appreciate her collaborations on behalf of MSNA. Thank you, Cheryl.

As we undertake a year asking how *Adventure Awaits with MSNA* for our members, the board will continue to look for innovative, value-added resources and opportunities for our members.

Have a wonderful fall and reach out anytime.

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